

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-4 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A sampling apparatus comprising;

~~(A01)~~ a frame fixed at a prescribed position relative to
the an object lens of an optical microscope,

~~(A02)~~ a moving member supported ~~with~~ by said fixed frame
so as to be reciprocatably movable between a sampling position
and a waiting position,

~~(A03)~~ a member for holding said moving member at the
waiting position,

~~(A04)~~ a sampling needle supported by said moving member;
a device for adjusting ~~the~~ a position of a said sampling
needle relative to said moving member so that ~~the~~ a tip of
said sampling needle is situated at ~~the~~ a focus position of
the object lens of said optical microscope in ~~the~~ a state
wherein said moving member ~~was~~ is moved to the sampling
position, ~~and~~

~~(A05)~~ means for fixing said sampling needle to said
moving member ~~in the state wherein~~ whereby the position of
said sampling needle relative to said moving member ~~was~~ is
adjusted so that the tip of said sampling needle is situated
at the focus position of the object lens of said optical
microscope; and

means for moving a surface on which a sample is located.

2. (Currently amended) The sampling apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

~~(A06)~~ said member for holding said moving member at the waiting position is composed of an elastic member which acts on said moving member so as to hold said member ~~always~~ at the waiting position and to ~~make the~~ enable movement of said moving member to said sampling position ~~possible at the time~~ when external force ~~was~~ is applied to said moving member so as to move said member to said sampling position.

3. (Currently amended) The sampling apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

~~(A07)~~ said fixed frame is constructed so as to be attachable to and detachable from a mirror cylinder which supports the object lens of said optical microscope.

4. (Currently amended) A sampling method comprising ~~conducting the following steps (B01) to (B03) in order:~~

~~(B01)~~ a sample moving step in which ~~the~~ a surface on which a sample is ~~attached~~ located is moved so that said

sample is moved to ~~the~~ a focus position of ~~the~~ an object lens of an optical microscope,

(B02) a needle moving step in which a moving member, which supports a sampling needle ~~and is moved integrally with the sampling needle~~, is moved from a waiting position where ~~the~~ a position of ~~the~~ a tip of the sampling needle is ~~apart spaced~~ from the focus position of the object lens ~~of an optical microscope~~ to a sampling position where the tip of the sampling needle is situated at the focus position of the object lens ~~of said optical microscope~~, and

(B03) a sampling sample pick up step in which a said sample ~~caught~~ is caught and held on the tip of the sampling needle ~~is taken and moved~~ away from the surface on which the sample is attached ~~and then collected~~, by using a sampling apparatus in which a said moving member, ~~which supports a sampling needle and is moved integrally with the sampling needle~~, ~~is adjusted~~ is adjustable so as to be reciprocatably movable between a waiting position where the position of the tip of the sampling needle is ~~apart spaced~~ from the focus position of the object lens ~~of an optical microscope~~ and a sampling position where the tip of the sampling needle is situated at the focus position of the object lens ~~of said optical microscope~~ whereby said sample may be analyzed.